

# Miss Rodeo Kansas

## Newsletter

*A publication from the Miss Rodeo Kansas Pageant Board*

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The Miss Rodeo Kansas Pageant is pleased to offer a newsletter beginning with this issue.

The Miss Rodeo Kansas Pageant Board has long considered offering a newsletter to keep patrons up-to-date on our events. 2008 was selected as the year to begin.

The newsletter will be published quarterly. The content will include information from the current Miss Rodeo Kansas and Miss Teen Rodeo Kansas, the Kansas State Director, the Teen Coordinator, and others submitting approved articles for publication.

Publication will initially begin with known supporters, but it is hoped distribution will grow. At this time, the newsletter will be offered via electronic distribution.

The Miss Rodeo Kansas Pageant Board extends an invitation for recipients to share the newsletter with interested parties. Please feel free to contact us to add new email addresses to the distribution list. At this time, no formal process is established for addition to the list. Should it be decided one is required, we will provide the form in an upcoming newsletter.

Welcome all!!



**Kansas State Fact:**

The Sunflower became the Kansas State Flower in 1903.

Bill text: "This flower has to all Kansans a historic symbolism which speaks of frontier days, winding trails, pathless prairie and is full of the life and glory of the past, the pride of the present and richly emblematic of the majesty of the golden future, and is a flower which has given Kansas the world-wide name, 'The Sunflower State'."

### **Miss Rodeo America 2008 is . . . Amy Wilson, Miss Rodeo Kansas 2007!!!!**

Amy represented Kansas so well during your reign beginning in January, 2007 and culminating in her participation and win at Miss Rodeo America in Las Vegas in December, 2007.

Amy is from Colby, Kansas. She is the 21 year old daughter of Lonnie and Lori Wilson. Her siblings include Kayla, Brenda, Sally, Dana and Brent. Amy graduated from Colby Community College with an Associates of Science degree in Agri-Business and Associate of Arts in Communications. Amy plans to continue her education at Fort Hays State University and pursue a career in ag-related television broadcasting with the goal to become a broadcaster for televised Professional Rodeo.

### Kansas National Director – Sheila Croft

The room was over the top with noise as they announced the individual awards for the 2008 Miss Rodeo America. Thresa Reynolds, Maureen Flax and I were waiting patiently. From the middle of the week, I had a terrific feeling about Amy's performance. I had asked her parents if they were prepared for the next Miss Rodeo America to live in their house and their response was, "Do you really think she's doing that well?" "Yes," I said, "Unless she stumbles greatly in an interview, I believe she will be the next Miss Rodeo America". She was such an example of grace on stage as they announced her name. Amy worked very hard all year long. We sat down on many occasions and discussed her goals for Miss Rodeo America and she did everything it took to put it all together. Amy has a tremendous year ahead of her, full of once in a lifetime experiences. Amy and I built a great relationship last year and as we continue that relationship this year, as I put together her MRA scrapbooks and visit with her as she is traveling down the road, I will try my best to keep you informed of her whereabouts.

As the new year began, Jenna and Alyson both held their coronation celebrations which were a tremendous success. I'm very proud of both of them and their willingness to serve in their respective capacities with such enthusiasm. They are both doing a great job!

The changes MRA made this past year that will affect our pageant is in the queen speech competition. The contestants will each have a two (2) minute speech on their state and rodeo followed by a 90 second media interview that is taped and played for the judges.

I will be attending the MRA mid-year meeting the 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> of May in Las Vegas where we will make any necessary changes for the upcoming MRA pageant. I will keep you informed of any changes.

As we gear up for the upcoming rodeo season, be sure to stop and say "hi" if you see Jenna or Alyson along the way.

Sheila

### Miss Teen Rodeo Kansas Coordinator – Joy Brown

Wow how time flies! I have been really busy keeping up with 1 year old twins, a 4 year old and a Miss Teen Rodeo Kansas! Alyson is a really great young lady to work with and is always ready for an adventure!

In February Alyson had her coronation celebration. She had a great turn out and lots of items donated. She had wonderful food and a GREAT TIME was had by all. Look for Alyson driving her new Ford down the road not only to rodeos, but she is also going to be participating in local Relay's for Life! We are really excited about this opportunity.

We are always looking for contestants for the Miss Rodeo Kansas and Miss Teen Rodeo Kansas Pageant. If you know of a young lady who would like more information or who just has questions, please send her our way. I am happy to answer any questions regarding the teen or queen part of the pageant. You can contact me at 913-370-0009 or email at [hjbrown06@yahoo.com](mailto:hjbrown06@yahoo.com).

Joy

## *Miss Rodeo Kansas 2008* – Jenna Nelson Garden City KS

A great year has begun as I have taken the reign over from Amy Wilson (congrats on all of her success as Miss Rodeo America!). After being crowned Miss Rodeo Kansas, I knew there would be a great road ahead to travel; so many new people and new faces to see!

The first major highlight of my year was to receive my fur coat from the Kansas Fur Harvesters in Washington, Kansas during their annual meeting. Not only were they generous enough to give me a coat, but they gave Miss Teen Rodeo Kansas, Alyson McCall, a teddy bear made of beaver. I had a great experience helping them with their fundraising by modeling the auction items.

Next I was off to Las Vegas, Nevada in November to watch and learn about the Miss Rodeo America Pageant. I believe this is one of the most important events that the Lady in Waiting is able to attend! Without going to watch, I would not know what to expect and not be near as prepared. I am so thankful to the Miss Rodeo Kansas Pageant Board for making it possible for me to attend this event as I know other state queens are not as lucky.

After Las Vegas, I had to really focus on getting the rest of my coronation pulled together. This is an event I had been working on since I was crowned in August. The coronation was held on January 26<sup>th</sup> in Garden City; overall it was a success. I want to thank all of those who put their time and effort to help me and the ones who donated items, not to mention the monetary support I received. I could not have done any of it without their help, especially Theresa and Denna (Coulter and Clay too)! A special thank you to Shelia because she always goes above and beyond!

The Denver Market was also held in January in Denver, Colorado. This was another great experience I do not think any title holder should live without! I was able to meet so many generous people who were willing to help me out in one way or another with my year. I cannot wait to go back in September!

To finish up January, Alyson and I went to the Wrangler Pro Classic held in Park City, Kansas. This fun filled three day rodeo held at the Kansas Coliseum consisted of not only rodeo performances each night, but pony rides and a children's rodeo all of which we helped with. Bronc Rumford was gracious enough to share his horses for us to ride all weekend (Thanks Bronc).

Starting in February, Alyson had her coronation in Salina, Kansas. It was an exciting night for Alyson, great food and many auction items! Overall, she had a wonderful turnout with many generous bidders in the audience! Way to go Alyson!

Now it's off to Kissimmee, Florida! This is the first year Miss Rodeo Kansas has been to Florida for the Silver Spurs Rodeo. There were so many new things I was able try and experience, including eating frog legs and gator tail. Laura Kessler, who was our host throughout the whole trip, is part of the Miss Rodeo Florida and the Silver Spurs pageant committees. She kept us entertained including taking us air boating, which took us on a tour of the lake to see gators and various wildlife. On the other days we were off to Disney World during day and hog hunting at night...quite the ride!

Other events attended in March were the Equifest and Boat/Travel Show also held in the Kansas Coliseum. During these events, I was there to sign autographs at sponsor booths and promote rodeo as well. At the Boat/Travel Show, I was stationed at the Kansas Fur Harvesters booth where they try to keep the public informed about trapping to keep animal populations down.

I am looking forward to what the rest of my year is going to bring, it will be an experience I will never forget.

Once again, I would like to thank all of my supporters who keep me going. I would also like to thank my parents for being so supportive because without them I would not be where I am today!

## *Miss Teen Rodeo Kansas 2008* – Alyson McCall Minneapolis KS

Being Miss Teen Rodeo Kansas is definitely an honor. After winning the prestigious title in August, I have been working hard to promote the sport of rodeo and the state of Kansas. I started by gaining sponsors to help cover my expenses as I travel this year. I would like to thank all those great businesses and individuals who have helped make this possible. I would especially like to thank my Diamond Crown sponsors: Dodge City Roundup Rodeo, Long McArthur, Bennington PRCA Rodeo, EquiPromotions, Jim and Tanya Demanett, and Gruber Farms.

In October, I attended the Kansas Fur Harvester's Convention. I helped sell cards for their raffles and model furs for the style show. They presented me with a beaver-fur teddy bear. In November, I rode in the Junction City Christmas parade with the Junction City Rodeo Association.

My reign officially started in January, and since then, I have been very busy! My first trip was to Dodge City for a celebration for Amy Wilson, Miss Rodeo America. I am proud of her accomplishments and look forward to seeing her throughout this year. The next weekend I went to Denver for market.

My first rodeo this year was the Wichita Pro Rodeo Classic. After that, I attended the Miss Rodeo Kansas Coronation Celebration to support my queen, Jenna Nelson. The first weekend of February, the PBR Discovery Tour came to Salina. I was interviewed and signed autographs with the cowboys both nights. I have been traveling to these events in Ford trucks provided by my sponsor, Long McArthur. For now, they are providing a truck for my weekend travels. In May, I will get my official truck to drive for the rest of my year!

February 9<sup>th</sup> was my crowning party, held in Salina. I had a great crowd and a wonderful evening. Thank you to all who came and supported me!

I have also been speaking to several groups and organizations, including the AMBUCS, Delphos Lions Club, and the Bennington Lions Club.

I've met so many wonderful people this year and look forward to meeting many more during my travels as Miss Teen Rodeo Kansas.

### Etiquette on the Prairie - ***Table Manners***

We all may have questions about proper table manners. Whether eating at home or with special guests, we need to present ourselves well. The following questions and answers are just a few tips for you.

#### **How should I fold a large napkin before placing it in my lap?**

Large dinner napkins should be folded in half after opening and before placing on one's lap.

#### **When eating meat, should you cut one piece, put your knife down, then eat the piece, or should you cut all of your meat up first, and then eat the meat?**

When eating meat, always cut and eat one small piece at a time. If you are eating American style, you may put your knife down, switch your fork to your other hand and eat your bite. If you are eating continental style, you may cut the piece of meat and eat it without putting your knife on your plate. Continental dining style is becoming more prevalent today and is considered the preferred method of eating.

#### **After the completion of a formal dinner, where do you place your utensils?**

Place the knife and fork parallel to one another across the plate with the knife blade facing inward toward the plate. Position the knife and fork in the position of ten o'clock to four o'clock.

Manners International ([www.mannersinternational.com](http://www.mannersinternational.com)) has graciously allowed us to offer tips from their website. Thank you so much.

## *Miss Teen Rodeo Kansas 2007* – Megan Butler

Hello everybody,

Wow, I cannot believe my year is already over. I am sad to say this is my first and last letter as the 2007 Miss Teen Rodeo Kansas.

This past year has been the best experience of my life, by far. During the year of my reign, I traveled all over the state of Kansas to assist in Kansas Junior, Open, Professional Rodeos, talks at various events, and even a KSU barbeque contest. A lot happened during my year so I will try and fill everyone in.

My first appearance was at the Wichita ProRodeo Classic. I met Amy Wilson, 2007 Miss Rodeo Kansas, and the Dodge City Roundup Committee. While I was there, I helped the committee with their booth, as well as ran a sponsor flag through during the rodeo. Here's a little side note for everybody; it was weird to ride a horse in the coliseum, as the only other times I was in the coliseum was during my older brother's state wrestling tournaments. This rodeo was definitely a great kick off to my year. The crazy snow storm was a surprise as well!

My coronation was soon after. It was a HUGE success. With the help of everybody who attended, I had a perfect night. The Angus beef for the barbeque sandwiches was donated by Munson Angus Farms and the side dishes were all made by the members of the Junction City Rodeo Association (JCRA). The JCRA helped me more than I could have asked for. The kind members helped me set up, tear down, work the auction, and serve the meal. Thank you all so much. Another thank you goes out to Brown Real Estate and Auction Service L.L.C. for being the auctioneer, the Dean Family for helping me decorate, and Kent Kerschner of FotoCowboy for taking pictures that evening. I would also like to say congratulations to the 2007 Miss Rodeo Mom winner, Stacy Schulte. The competition was a blast; by the end of the competition, everybody present was rolling with laughter.

After that night, my year really began. The most exciting trip I went on the entire year was my trip to the Calgary Stampede. I have never been to such a large rodeo and fair. I traveled with my mother and grandfather all the way to Calgary. Once I arrived way up north, I met Cami Cushing, Miss Rodeo Utah, and Amy. We went to the rodeo for two days where we were introduced on stage twice on the first day. I've never seen such a big crowd at a rodeo. I must admit, I had butterflies in my stomach from the excitement and maybe a little bit of nerves.

Our fair guide was a past Calgary Trio (that is what they call the Calgary Stampede Queens). She took us all over the grounds. We even got to sit on top of a jet. I am not a big fan of heights, but I pushed past it and I am glad I did. No one else got the opportunity to sit on top of the jet.

On our day off, Miss Rodeo Arizona, her mom, Amy, my mother, grandfather, and I rented a van and visited Banff. The scenery was beautiful and the shopping was great!

One of the last rodeos I attended was the Dodge City Roundup and the 2008 Miss Rodeo Kansas Pageant. The rodeo was once again a success and a blast. Amy and I helped in the arena pushing cattle and I carried the Kansas flag in the grand entry. The night of the coronation, I rode my horse Biscuit in the arena as my farewell speech played just prior to the coronation.

The Miss Rodeo Kansas Pageant was a success, as well. We had three girls competing for the 2008 Miss Teen Rodeo Kansas title. I was so nervous for them after remembering what it was like last year. Luckily, there were not any mishaps during the pageant. I would like to say a big thank you to the judges; you all did a great job and picked a terrific lady for the 2008 title.

Before I head out, I would like to say one last big thank you to all my sponsors. Mike Nail from Rusty Nail sponsored my chaps. Thank you so much. I cannot count the number of compliments I received on them. I even had a bull rider ask if he could buy them from me after my year! Of course I turned down the offer, there is no way I could give up those amazing chaps! My gratitude also goes out to the Dodge City Roundup Committee for sponsoring the pageant and letting the queens shine in the arena. I especially want to thank the Miss Rodeo Kansas Board as you all did so much for me. I especially want to thank Joy and Sheila for helping to schedule my

appearances and making sure I had everything I needed. As everyone knows, a rodeo queen cannot go anywhere without something amazing to wear. CM Show Apparel sponsored many of my arena shirts, jackets, and my modeling dress. My last biggest thank you goes out to my parents and my brothers. My mom and dad did everything they could for me! They took me to every appearance. No matter how many times my mom and I got lost (which was every time I went somewhere) she never gave up and kept helping me everywhere I went. I do not think anyone knows how much stress goes into being a rodeo queen's mom until you become one. I love you mom, dad, Jason and Ryan!

Until next time, so long everybody and I hope to see you all down the rodeo road soon!

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P.S. Congratulations Amy Wilson! I am so proud of you and knew from the start you would become Miss Rodeo America. My only wish was that I could have been there with a huge embarrassing sign with your name on it cheering you on. I am proud to say my queen is the 2008 Miss Rodeo America. I could not have asked for a better queen, traveling partner, and friend. I enjoyed every moment of our year that we spent together, even when we were freezing in the rain at the Salina Mounted Patrol Rodeo. Have a great year. Hope to see you soon!!

## **Miss Rodeo Kansas Pageant Board Recognizes Sponsors**

The Miss Rodeo Kansas Pageant could not exist without the support of our many sponsors. A sincere thanks is given to those who make the difference!

### **Sponsors - Dodge City KS**

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### **Sponsors - Dodge City KS continued**

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### **Sponsors - Out of State**

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## **Booking Miss Rodeo Kansas or Miss Teen Rodeo Kansas**

**To book an appearance with MRK 2008, please contact** Sheila Croft @ (620)668-5574 or at [mrkpageant@yahoo.com](mailto:mrkpageant@yahoo.com).

**To book an appearance with MTRK 2008, please contact** Joy Brown @ (913)370-0009 or at [hjbrown06@yahoo.com](mailto:hjbrown06@yahoo.com).